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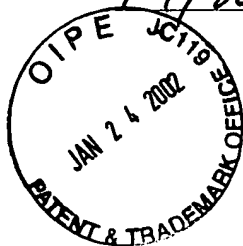


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U.S. Patent & TMO/TM Mail Rpt Dt. #26

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#10
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J-N

Michael J. Pinsky
1/22/02



Patent

Attorney Docket No.: 000519

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

applicants: Robert E. Reuter, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/636,359) Examiner: C. Nguyen
Filing Date: August 11, 2000) Group Art Unit: 3635

Title: HYBRID OFFICE PANEL
CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODULAR
OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEM

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

GROUP 3600

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2001, for the above-referenced application, the following comments are offered:

Remarks

Claims 1 to 18 and 52-56 are pending in the application. The applicant gratefully acknowledges allowance of claim 17, 18, 55 and 56 over the prior art of record.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11 and 15-53 stand rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Waalkes, U.S. Patent No. 5,899,035. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 52 are independent claims.